
Glossary of Terms

Note: The primary glossary of terms for the FPA Project is located at <http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/irmwt/pmo/PMOweb/ProductPages/GlossaryPages/NWCG%20Fire%20Glossary%20-%20Main.htm>.

A, B

AAC. Average per Acre Cost. One component of the total emergency fire suppression costs for fires contained at less than the escaped fire size (the other component is Unit Mission Cost). Above the escaped fire size, AAC represents the total emergency fire suppression cost.

Agency. One of the Fire Program Analysis agencies, i.e. BLM, USFS, FWS, BIA or NPS or any other fire protection agency participating in the analysis. The NWCG Glossary of Terms reads: An agency is a division of government with a specific function, or a non-governmental organization (e.g., private contractor, business, etc.) that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident mitigation), or assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance).

Analysis Year. The calendar year in which the particular budget and cost data from an analysis will be used for budgeting or allocation purposes. All input cost and value data is inflated to this common year.

AT. Air Tanker. See NSCG Glossary of Terms.

Budget Category. Agency defined categories for certain classes of planned fire budget expenditures.

C

Cooperator. Any fire protection agency, fire department, or commercial or other entity that provides initial attack forces to the Planning Unit for dispatch on a planned basis. The definition from NWCG Glossary of Terms reads: A cooperator is a local agency or person who has agreed in advance to perform specified fire control services and has been properly instructed to give such service. *See Other Unit Forces.*

Cost Category. Budget expense categories such as Equipment, Supplies, Travel, Personnel.

D, E

Discovery Size. The defined, typical size of a fire that is discovered in each Fire Management Zone. It is intended to reflect the effectiveness of the planning unit detection system. The entry is used as the starting fire size in the fire growth simulation.

Discovery Time. NWCG Glossary of Terms reads: Elapsed time from start of fire (known or estimated) until the time of the first discovery that results directly in fire suppression action.

EFT. Escaped Fire Table. A table of the final size of fires that are not contained by the simulation model (exceeded time or size constraints). The EFT is developed from historical large fire data for the planning unit. Sizes may be defined for each Representative Location and each Fire Intensity Level.

Extra AT Minutes. The added delay in get-away time that typically may occur in the dispatch of air tankers from Cooperators and other administrative units (that is, non-planning unit forces). The intent is to account for the additional time that may be

required to communicate with the Other Unit and make the dispatch request, as well as any added time that such forces may take to leave for the fire. The IIAA entry is cooperator-specific. *See Other Unit Forces.*

Extra Other Minutes. The same as above, except it applies to initial attack forces other than air tankers from Cooperators and Other Units.

F, G

FBD Table. Fire Behavior Data Table. A table of numbers of fires and 50th and 90th percentile rates of spread for each Fire Intensity Level. It is used in the simulation of fire occurrence and behavior. The FBD is developed from historic fire occurrence and fire weather data for each Fire Management Unit in the PCHA program.

FIL. Fire Intensity Level. A measure of fire behavior. It is based on the calculated flame length, where FIL 1 is 0-2 feet, FIL 2 is 2-4 feet, FIL 3 is 4-6 feet, FIL 4 is 6-8 feet, FIL 5 is 8-12 feet, and FIL 6 is greater than 12 feet. The NFDRS Burning Index (BI) is the indicator for fire danger for dispatching purposes and is used to categorize rate of spread and to assess fire effects. $FIL = BI/10$

FMU Fire Management Unit. A delineated portion of a Planning Unit that represents an area for which a single set of initial attack dispatch data will be used. It is the basic analysis area, and represents a defined number of annual fires (fire occurrence frequency). It is represented spatially by a single polygon. An area of the planning unit that can be represented by a set of fire behavior data based on a one or more fuel models, slope class, and set of weather data.

FMP Objectives: Within an Agency, the allowable acres that can be burned within the Agency lands considering LMP Objectives. Fire Management Plans can be interagency.

FMU Objectives. Within an FMU, the allowable acres that can be burned by FIL. This is a working definition and will depend on the SuD data requirements and on the translation of FMP Objectives into FMU Objectives.

FPA System. The entire Fire Program analysis as depicted in the FPA Context Diagram contained in the Project Charter .

FPA Sytem Preparedness Module. The initial attack preparedness portion of the FPA, also known as the System Under Discussion (SuD).

Getaway time. The NWCG Glossary of Terms reads: Elapsed time from receipt of notification by the personnel charged with initiating suppression action to the departure of the first attack unit.

H,I

HFT. Historical Fire Table. The tabulation of historical numbers of fires and rates of spread by size and intensity for the planning unit.

IIAA. Interagency Initial Attack Assessment model. The NFMAS simulation model for fire planning. IIAA provides a number of major enhancements to the original 1980 IIAA program. Its calculations and outputs are fully consistent with the original 1980 version. The legacy system.

Inflation A standard factor for each year **n factor.** used to inflate or deflate costs and values from different years to bring them to a common year.

Initial Dispatch Location. The designated headquarters, station, or point representing a more generalized location that is used as the dispatch point for initial attack forces, and from which travel distances to Representative Locations is measured. If both ground and air attack forces are stationed at the same location (base), separate base names must be designated for air and ground units.

L, M

Leave Behind. The number of line workers that would remain behind as hand crew line workers when an engine leaves the fire line to refill.

LMP Objectives. Objectives that are stated within the Land Management Plan relative to natural and cultural resources.

Miles to FMU. The road mileage, usually traveled route, between a ground initial attack unit Initial Dispatch Location (Base) and the FMU fire Location. For locations with air attack units assigned, it is the air line miles.

N, O

NFMAS. National Fire Management Analysis System. The fire management analysis process that evaluates the efficiency of fire management programs using an economic efficiency criterion. The process uses a simulation model to estimate effectiveness of the local initial attack organization and other fire management activities such as prevention and fuels management.

Other Unit Forces. A term used to categorize suppression forces available for initial attack in the IIAA that are not part of the Planning Unit organization. Other Unit Forces include those from other administrative units in the same agency as the Planning Unit, as well as from other agencies and industrial or other cooperators.

Outyear Budget Request. The results of the analysis for a specific budget year.

P

PCHA. Personal Computer Historical Analysis. A software program that processes historical daily weather observation and individual fire report data files to produce fire behavior and fire occurrence data for IIAA.

Planning Unit. An administrative or organizational entity. The Planning Unit is the administrative unit for which the analysis is carried out.

Production Rate. In IIAA, the rate at which fire line containing a fire's spread is produced by a particular type of initial attack forces. For ground forces, the entry is chains per hour. For aerially delivered retardant or water, the entry is the typical aircraft load in hundreds of gallons (1200 gallons = "12").

Production Rate Factor. Used for Other Unit/Cooperator input. A reduction factor applied to the standard production rates for forces of that cooperator. It is used, when appropriate, to account for the diminished productivity of non-agency forces that may be less well trained, organized, or equipped.

Project. The FPA System Preparedness Module.

Pumping Minutes. Used with reference to engines. The typical amount of time that a particular type engine can pump water from its own supply during the initial attack action.

R

Rate of Spread. The steady-state fire spread rate in chains per hour for up to six Fire Intensity Levels for each Fire Management Zone. (The number of Fire Intensity Levels that any set of fire behavior data will have is determined by the fuel model and the weather used in the calculation.) Each Fire Intensity Level is represented by rate of spread values at the 50th and 90th percentiles of the range of spread rates calculated for the Fire Intensity Level. The NWCG Glossary of Terms reads: The relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions. It is expressed as rate of increase of the total perimeter of the fire, as rate of forward spread of the fire front, or as rate of increase in area, depending on the intended use of the information. Usually it is expressed in chains or acres per hour for a specific period in the fire's history. The ROS Factor is a factor usually on a scale of 1 to 100 which represents a relative rate of forward spread for a specific fuel condition and fixed weather conditions (or fuel model). Factors can be used as multipliers, arguments for entering tables, or provide a ratio of values between two fuels.

Reload/Refill time. The number of minutes specified for each Fire Management Unit required for an engine or an air tanker to make a round trip to refill and return to the fire. *Also referred to (for engines) as Minutes for Water.*

Resource. See Suppression Resource.

S

SEAT. Single Engine Air Tanker. Smaller aircraft used in some areas with capability to land and reload near fire using temporary short landing sites.

Sub-Unit. An administrative part, such as a Ranger District, of the Planning Unit.

Suppression Resources. The individual units or components of the fire program (engine, crew, air tanker, administration, fire management officer) that are input to and tracked by the IIAA for initial attack simulation and or program costing purposes.

U, V, W

UMC. Unit Mission Costs. The typical (average) costs charged to emergency fire suppression funds that are incurred for a particular type of unit each time it is dispatched to fire controlled in initial attack. (Budgeted fire salary and travel/mileage costs are not included.) A component of the IIAA emergency fire suppression cost (the other is Average per Acre Cost).

Walk-in Delay. The typical time, in addition to the calculated road travel time, for forces to walk from the road into fires in walk-in Fire Management Units. The walk-in delay should be estimated to fires in that part of the FMU of greatest concern

Walk-in FMU. Walk-in Fire Management Unit. An FMU designated as inaccessible to ground vehicles including bull dozers. Personnel may either walk in or be transported to them by aircraft (helitack crews, smokejumpers). Fire line is constructed by hand tools and retardant/water is only applied aurally.